

To: Mahler, Tom[mahler.tom@epa.gov]; Johnson, James[Johnson.James@epa.gov]; Campbell, Todd[Campbell.Todd@epa.gov]; Hayes, Scott[Hayes.Scott@epa.gov]; Hammerschmidt, Ron[Hammerschmidt.Ron@epa.gov]
Cc: Hooper, Charles A.[Hooper.CharlesA@epa.gov]; Field, Jeff[Field.Jeff@epa.gov]; Gravatt, Dan[Gravatt.Dan@epa.gov]; Beringer, Mike[Beringer.Michael@epa.gov]; Phillips, Todd[Phillips.Todd@epa.gov]
From: Tapia, Cecilia
Sent: Thur 5/8/2014 6:06:56 PM
Subject: RE: Bridgeton Remarks: Draft - PLEASE REVIEW AND MAKE ANY CORRECTIONS/I've highlighted areas to pay attention to

2 pm call

From: Mahler, Tom
Sent: Thursday, May 08, 2014 9:34 AM
To: Tapia, Cecilia; Johnson, James; Campbell, Todd; Hayes, Scott
Cc: Hooper, Charles A.; Field, Jeff; Gravatt, Dan; Beringer, Mike; Phillips, Todd
Subject: Re: Bridgeton Remarks: Draft - PLEASE REVIEW AND MAKE ANY CORRECTIONS/I've highlighted areas to pay attention to

For this investigation our first level won't actually be twice background. While twice background would indicate that additional investigation is needed, we are going to go with a level that is lower than twice background but statistically significant above background. This is similar to the way ASPECT reports their data.

The process is to take RAT surveys at reference/Back ground areas like a baseball field in St. Charles for instance.

We will use the data points from that survey to calculate a mean counts per minute and a standard deviation.

Our first investigation level will be the mean plus three times the standard deviation. The second level is usually twice the mean. Additional levels are usually set at multiples of the mean.

We expect to see about 0.3% of the data exceed the first investigation level. The data should be very close to the level and randomly spread throughout the site.

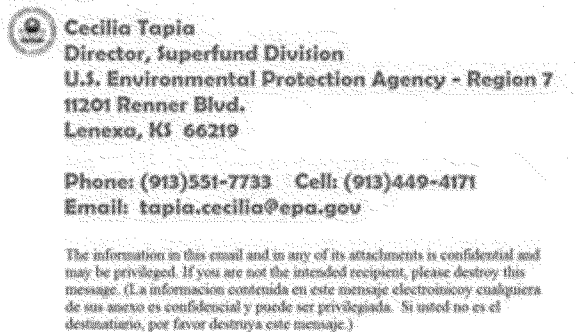
What we would be looking for are groups or clumps of data points exceeding the investigation level. Those would be areas we would definitely collect a discrete sample.

Hopefully this clarifies things.

Tom

From: Tapia, Cecilia
Sent: Thursday, May 8, 2014 9:09:21 AM
To: Johnson, James; Campbell, Todd; Mahler, Tom; Hayes, Scott
Cc: Hooper, Charles A.; Field, Jeff; Gravatt, Dan; Beringer, Mike; Phillips, Todd
Subject: RE: Bridgeton Remarks: Draft - PLEASE REVIEW AND MAKE ANY CORRECTIONS/I've highlighted areas to pay attention to

Are you using 2x background or 3 x .



From: Johnson, James
Sent: Wednesday, May 07, 2014 7:15 PM
To: Tapia, Cecilia; Campbell, Todd; Mahler, Tom; Hayes, Scott
Cc: Hooper, Charles A.; Field, Jeff; Gravatt, Dan
Subject: RE: Bridgeton Remarks: Draft - PLEASE REVIEW AND MAKE ANY CORRECTIONS/I've highlighted areas to pay attention to

Cecilia, here is my two cents on the field RAT survey techniques. Cut and paste as you please.

RAT Description: EPA will also survey surface soils at the site for gross gamma activity using a Ludlum Model 2221 rate meter with a Ludlum Model 44-20 NaI scintillation detector. Survey personnel will scan surface soil in a serpentine pattern. The detector will be held approximately 6 inches above ground surface while the surveyor moves the detector at approximately 1 to 2 feet per second. Each location at which measured gross gamma radiation exceeds twice background will be flagged for further investigation and possible soil sampling. The Ludlum detector will be coupled with a Trimble GPS unit and a notebook computer running Rapid Assessment Tool Software (RATS). The RATS system will collect and log detector readings and GPS locations, and will display the survey data in real time over aerial imagery. The resulting graphical illustration will be used to evaluate contamination distribution throughout the area of investigation.

From: Tapia, Cecilia

Sent: Wednesday, May 07, 2014 5:41 PM

To: Campbell, Todd; Mahler, Tom; Hayes, Scott; Johnson, James

Cc: Hooper, Charles A.; Field, Jeff; Gravatt, Dan

Subject: FW: Bridgeton Remarks: Draft - PLEASE REVIEW AND MAKE ANY CORRECTIONS/I've highlighted areas to pay attention to

Importance: High

Today, Bridgeton Mayor Bowers is welcoming the EPA to his community. He's asked for our specialized scientific help. And he's promised his City's complete cooperation.

And on behalf of Bridgeton, this agency has accepted his request to help meet the City's need to inform and protect its residents, its guests, and its employees and volunteers.

This City deserves EPA's best. And Region 7 will deliver what this agency does best: gather accurate scientific data and communicate it promptly and accurately to inform good public-health protection decisions.

The Mayor's duty to his neighbors, and his responsibility to keep them informed – and to

protect their health – matches the EPA’s duty to use our scientific expertise on behalf of public health protection. That duty is at the core of our Superfund work, and of all our work on behalf of communities that depend on EPA.

EPA’s scientific expertise will go to work here in Bridgeton to assess – and this agency believes to confirm -- whether the BMAC can continue to be used every week throughout the season by thousands of St Louis area baseball and softball players, and the hundreds of hard-working staff and dedicated volunteers who operate one of the Heartland’s premier sports complexes.

Here’s how the EPA’s trained, qualified technical staff, and this agency’s specialized equipment, will be used in Bridgeton. And here’s what our professionals and their equipment, supported by independent laboratory specialists using accepted scientific principles and methods, will tell this community.

EPA will conduct a scientifically developed and professionally conducted radiation screening program at the Bridgeton Municipal Athletic Complex (BMAC) starting the week of May 19.

This agency will deploy a team of personnel and equipment to screen the Complex – from fenceline to fenceline – for evidence of radioactive contamination linked to the West Lake Landfill Superfund site.

Working on a schedule that minimizes disruptions to the Complex’s busy schedule, and following procedures designed to keep City staff and Complex volunteers and ballplayers and their families safe, this EPA team will use [insert names of equipment] to search for evidence of gamma radiation in the soil.

This screening plan will take about a week to complete. The agency will be looking for indications that something new, something unexpected, something never before established in over a decade of professional, independent public testing – by the Army Corps of Engineers, by the US Department of Energy, and by the Missouri Department of Natural Resources.

EPA will share the results of this screening plan as soon as they have received the kind of rigorous scientific quality assurance that Bridgeton people expect and deserve. Should this screening indicate a need for additional testing, it will be done. Should this screening indicate a need to restrict some uses of BMAC, this agency will promptly advise the City of that need, and work with the City, County, and State to do it efficiently and safely.

I want to emphasize that this agency, and none of the EPA's federal, state, and local partners, has any credible indication of radioactive contamination at BMAC. I want to emphasize that all the testing and sampling and analysis done to date in Bridgeton, including around BMAC, has never found credible evidence of radioactive contamination – linked to materials disposed of at the West Lake Landfill Superfund site – beyond the borders of that Site.

So why is the Agency doing this work at BMAC? To help the City of Bridgeton and the State of Missouri carry out their highest responsibility: to protect the health and safety of this community. And to address claims recently made – claims supported by no scientifically reliable evidence – that BMAC is somehow unsafe. And to do what this agency can, in partnership with the City and the State and the County, to reassure folks who live and play and work in and around BMAC that they can do so just as they have for the past [insert years BMAC operating].

All validated data available to this agency, and to our federal, state, and local partners, support continued use of BMAC. Nevertheless, in carrying out this agency's Superfund job, I have decided that EPA should do the screening work in the interest of resolving public concerns generated by residents using donated radiation detection equipment. As the St. Louis Post-Dispatch noted last weekend, it's really only EPA that can resolve the uncertainty caused by non-scientific claims, unscientific information, and well-meaning but frankly untrained local folks using donated equipment.

EPA doesn't know if the instrument used by the individuals was calibrated or operating properly; we don't know if trained people were operating the instrument; we don't know if a quality assurance project plan was used or if standard operating procedures were followed. These factors affect the usability of the information. The EPA's decision to screen reflects its interest in ensuring the scientific integrity of information used by the public to make decisions about activities in Bridgeton as it relates to the West Lake Landfill Superfund Site.

While EPA balances many competing demands each day one thing that tips the scale in every case is the agency's responsibility to protect public health using validated scientific inquiry and exacting engineering standards.

From: Brooks, Karl

Sent: Wednesday, May 07, 2014 4:42 PM

To: Carey, Curtis; Peterson, Mary

Cc: Tapia, Cecilia; Hammerschmidt, Ron; Hague, Mark; Cacho, Julia

Subject: Bridgeton Remarks: Draft

OPA and team:

My first cut at what I want to say on Friday. Please go to work on this and let me see another version tomorrow afternoon that reflects S/fund's and Ron's expert advice. Send in BB friendly format.

Thx. Good work today.